

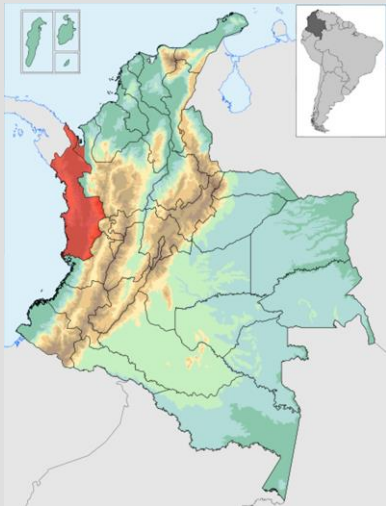


USAID CMM APS #M/OAA/DCHA/DOFDA-10-390

**Project – “Resolution of Land and Natural Resources  
Conflicts in Colombia”  
Focus “Gender”**

**QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT**

01 January – 30 March 2014



**Submitted by**

**MERCY CORPS COLOMBIA (Primary Applicant)**

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## Acronyms

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| <b>CCL</b>          | Local Community Council   |
| <b>CMM</b>          | Conflict Management & Mitigation Office, USAID                        |
| <b>COCOMABOCAS</b>  | Community Council of Bocas de Atrato & Leoncito                       |
| <b>COCOMACIA</b>    | Community Council of the Integrated Farmers Association of the Atrato |
| <b>COCOMASUR</b>    | Community Council of Tolo River, Southern Coastal Zone of Acandí      |
| <b>COCOMAUNGUIA</b> | Community Council of the Lower Atrato of Ungia                        |
| <b>INCODER</b>      | Colombian Institute for Rural Development                             |
| <b>MSI</b>          | Management Systems International                                      |

## 1. Executive Summary & Implementation

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In the reporting period Mercy Corps, Major Community Councils of Black Communities and New Masculinities Collective designed and implemented trainings on Gender and Territory, aimed at men and women of 15 local councils (six COCOMAUNGUA local councils, nine COCOMASUR local councils) along with the COCOMACIA Gender Commission. During these trainings, 16 participatory workshops were held with 380 people, of whom 220 (57%) were women.

### **Photo No 1. Woman with her son at a training workshop on Gender and Territory**

In the reporting period, the project taught new leaders of 15 COCOMASUR and COOMAUNGUA local councils to resolve territorial disputes through two capacity building processes: one on Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanisms (MARC, in Spanish), with 50 people participating, of which 27 (54%) were women. The second was a training in using GPS with 48 people participating, of which 27 (56%) were women.

USAID, its contractor MSI, and the National Consulting Center gathered qualitative data in the field. This exercise is part of the external evaluation conducted for the project, and it has benefited from the active participation of the Major Community Councils, which has allowed the project to obtain inputs in order to make decisions around the identified gaps, including the implementation of strategies to increase the participation of children in the training processes and decision making on the use and land management by women.

## 2. Indicators

Table No 1: Achievements from January - March 2014

| Indicator | Indicator Description   | Indicator type |             | Desaggregation by sex | Total Year 1 | Goal Year 1 | % Goal Achieve Y1 | Year 2 QR1 13 | Year 2 QR2 13 | Year 2 QR3 13 | Year 2 QR4 13 | Total Year 2 | Goal Year 2 | % Goal Achieve Y2 | Year 3 QR1 14 | Year 3 QR2 14 | Total Year 3 | Gender Goal Year 3 | % Gender Goal Achieved Y3 | Cumm. Year1 +Year2+ Year3 | LoP Goal | % LoP Achieved |
|-----------|---|----------------|-------------|-----------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------|----------------|
| 1         | Number of previously existing land and natural resources conflicts resolved in areas receiving USG assistance for mitigation of land conflicts.   | CMM            |             |                       | 133          | 80          | 166%              | 37            | 0             | 0             | 0             | 37           | 40          | 93%               | 0             | 0             | 0            | 40                 | 0%                        | 170                       | 160      | 106,3%         |
| 2         | # of people participating in USG –assisted reconciliation activities conducted and completed with the participation of two o more of the conflict parties. (Direct beneficiaries of resolved conflict cases ) | CMM            |             | Man                   | 85           | 110         | 105%              | 12            | 0             | 16            | 0             | 28           | 40          | 128%              | 0             | 0             | 0            | 0                  | n.a                       | 167                       | 190      | 87,9%          |
|           |   |                |             | Women                 | 31           |             |                   | 15            | 0             | 8             | 0             | 23           |             |                   | 0             | 0             | 0            | 40                 | 0%                        |                           |          |                |
| 3         | # of people participating in USG –assisted reconciliation activities conducted and completed with the participation of two or more of the conflict parties. (Participation in training, local exchanges)      | CMM            |             | Man                   | 1.083        | 400         | 457%              | 68            | 0             | 0             | 0             | 68           | 110         | 148%              | 0             | 160           | 160          | 0                  | n.a                       | 2.369                     | 730      | 324,5%         |
|           |   |                |             | Women                 | 743          |             |                   | 95            | 0             | 0             | 0             | 95           |             |                   | 0             | 220           | 220          | 220                | 100%                      |                           |          |                |
| 4         | # of regional exchanges concerning conflicts over land and natural resources between technical teams, staff members, and leaders of Colombia and Guatemala.   | MC             |             |                       | 2            | 2           | 100%              | 0             | 1             | 0             | 0             | 1            | 1           | 100%              | 1             | 0             | 1            | 2                  | 50%                       | 4                         | 5        | 80,0%          |
| 5         | Number of households that have obtained property rights as a result of USG assistance.  | MC             | Beneficiary | Household             | 48           | 30          | 160%              | 0             | 0             | 0             | 224           | 224          | 15          | 1493%             | 0             | 0             | 0            | 100                | 0%                        | 272                       | 145      | 187,6%         |
|           |   |                |             | Woman                 | 48           | n/a         | n/a               | 0             | 0             | 0             | 163           | 163          | n/a         | n/a               | 0             | 0             | 0            | 100                | 0%                        | 211                       | n.a      | n.a            |
|           |   |                |             | Man                   | 0            | n/a         | n/a               | 0             | 0             | 0             | 61            | 61           | n/a         | n/a               | 0             | 0             | 0            | n.a.               | n.a                       | 61                        | n.a      | n.a            |
|           |   |                | Titles      | Women                 | 0            | n/a         | n/a               | 0             | 0             | 0             | 171           | 171          | n/a         | n/a               | 0             | 0             | 0            | n.a.               | n.a                       | 171                       | n.a      | n.a            |
|           |   |                |             | Man                   | 0            | n/a         | n/a               | 0             | 0             | 0             | 65            | 65           | n/a         | n/a               | 0             | 0             | 0            | n.a.               | n.a                       | 65                        | n.a      | n.a            |
| 6         | # of peace building structures established or strengthened with USG assistance that engages conflict-affected citizens affected in peace and reconciliation processes   |                |             |                       | 4            | 4           | 100%              | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0            | 0           | 0%                | 0             | 0             | 0            | 0                  | n.a                       | 4                         | 4        | 100,0%         |
| 7         | # of land and natural resource guides with a gender focus distributed to Afro-Colombian Community Councils  | MC             |             |                       | 0            | 0           | 0%                | 0             | 0             | 0             | 171           | 171          | 137         | 125%              | 0             | 0             | 0            | 0                  | n.a                       | 171                       | 137      | 124,8%         |
| 8         | # of users in the RedTierras disaggregated  | MC             |             |                       | 171          | 150         | 114%              | 47            | 41            | 20            | 64            | 172          | 150         | 115%              | 38            | 12            | 50           | 40                 | 125%                      | 393                       | 340      | 115,6%         |
| 9         | # of local women participating in a substantive role or position in a peacebuilding process supported with USG assistance   | CMM            |             | Women                 | 0            | 0           | 0%                | 33            | 0             | 0             | 0             | 33           | 15          | 220%              | 0             | 0             | 0            | 40                 | 0%                        | 33                        | 55       | 60,0%          |

### 3. Activities & Results

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**Objective 1. To empower Afro-Colombian women to gain new abilities for land conflict resolution and land tenancy security.**

**Result 1. At least 40 conflicts related with land and natural resources have been resolved by Afro-Colombian women of the 64 Local Councils, therefore, increasing land access and use for 100 women.**

**Activity 1.1. Afro-Colombian women, leaders of the three communitarian Councils COCOMACIA, COCOMASUR, and COCOMAUNGUIA lead mediation sessions about disputes on land and natural resources.**

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In the reporting period, Mercy Corps implemented a training in Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanisms (hereinafter MARC) in two major community councils, the first one in COCOMASUR in January and the second one in COCOMAUNGUIA in February. These workshops involved 50 people, of which 27 were women.

**Table No 1. Number of participants in MARC workshop; by Major Community Council.**

| Major Council | Total number of participants | Women     | Men       |
|---------------|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| COCOMAUNGUIA  | 27                           | 14        | 13        |
| COCOMASUR     | 23                           | 13        | 10        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>50</b>                    | <b>27</b> | <b>23</b> |

Subsequently, the COCOMAUNGUIA mediation team who works from the Unguia Mediation Center, focused on following up and monitoring the agreements signed in September 2013 as part of the resolution of a territorial dispute between the Major Council Board and 13 families. As part of the agreements, the families were given usufruct rights to plots of land for the production of rice. The technical team composed of a mediator, a community surveyor and two delegates from the Board of COCOMAUNGUIA performed these visits to six families in the local council of Ticole and seven families in the local council of El Puerto. The verification was performed through physical inspections of the parcels, a technical information survey was given to each of the awarded families and photographic records of rice cultivation were made. During the visit the families received the usufruct certificates for a period of one year from the Board of COCOMAUNGUIA.

The following councils received the certificates of usufruct of land: Ticole Local Council and El Puerto Local Council

**Activity 1.2. Build Afro-Colombian women's capacities on GPS usage and interpretation of GIS maps for land tenancy security and planning of land use.**

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In the reporting period, Mercy Corps implemented GPS trainings in two Major Community Councils, COCOMASUR and COCOMAUNGUIA, with the participation of 49 people of whom 26 were women.

**Table No 2. Number of participants in GPS workshops; by Major Council.**

| Major Council | Total number of participants | Women     | Men       |
|---------------|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| COCOMAUNGUIA  | 27                           | 14        | 13        |
| COCOMASUR     | 22                           | 12        | 10        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>49</b>                    | <b>26</b> | <b>23</b> |

The topics addressed in the workshop were: a) surveying, use of the field notebook, vertex coordinates, control and verification, adjoining and longitude points, and altitude of the section; b) control coordinates labeling which consisted of marking with identification labels or painting the coordinates of the control point and identifying topographic features such as rivers or creeks and which serve as geo-referencing control points for mapping that feeds the geographical information system of the Community Councils. This knowledge is applied by the participants in the demarcation which is the last of the surveying procedures in which the agreements of the corresponding territorial regulation process or mediation of a territorial conflict were reflected and leads to the identification of reference points and control of the territorial limits.

The area of small villages and farms of families in the community councils will be demarcated by women and youth trained by the project, using sub-metric and navigation GPS. Subsequently it is presented in a digital mapping of property recognition which will be located in the GIS of the mediation centers. Transferring the information from the field notebooks to the GIS database is a requirement for surveying; this process is required to correct location data (coordinates) and will be supported by the GIS specialist of the project. The information of the territorial planning process of the Local Community Councils will allow the boards of the Major Council and Local Councils to have internal administrative records of the delimitation of the areas of individual, familial and communal usufruct in the collective territory.

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### **Activity 1.3. Elaborate and disseminate methodological guides with protocols for land conflict resolution focused on gender equality and Afro-Colombian women's leadership approach.**

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This activity has already been completed within the timeframe of the Project. The indicator for this activity reports 171 methodological guides have been given to community councils, reporting a 124% of compliance.

## **Activity 1.4 Land and Natural Resources Conflict Resolution –Implementation of the Route for Case Management**

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This activity was carried out in the frame of the project with 170 resolved cases. The indicator for this activity on unresolved territorial conflicts and natural resources reported a 106% of compliance.

## **Activity 1.5. Establish rights for the use of the land of at least 100 Afro-Colombian women through usufruct documents and/or legal certainty of the titles of the government vacant lots.**

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This activity has been fully carried out with 272 awarded land titles. Indicator Number 5 on unresolved territorial conflicts and natural resources reported a 187% of compliance. As an added value, the possibility of awarding land titles to 72 families with vacant state plots in collaboration with Choco INCODER Territorial Manager and the city hall of Unguia, benefiting farmers in Unguia, is under consideration. According to the operational planning of the project, this would take place in May 2014.

**Objective 2. Strengthen the Gender Commissions of the Afro-Colombian Community Councils and groups of women throughout exchanges of experiences and learned lessons in Colombia, Guatemala, and Bolivia on the subject of gender equality and land and natural resources conflict resolution.**

**Result 2. Activities of exchange of experiences about land and natural resources conflict resolution are carried out using regional visits and the virtual red RedTierras, resulting in the strengthening of the COCOMACIA's Gender Commission and the three groups of Afro-Colombian women in the Lower Atrato.**

**Activity 2.1. Exchange technical information and the experiences of Afro-Colombian women and other women, concerning land tenancy, conflict resolution, and ethno-territorial rights thorough cross visits and the virtual network RedTierras ([www.redtierras.com](http://www.redtierras.com)).**

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This activity has been successfully performed within the frame of the project with 393 registered users in RedTierras who share best practices and experiences on the resolution of territorial conflicts and natural resources. Indicator Number 8 on enrollment of users to RedTierras reported 115% of compliance. It is noteworthy that the blog titled: "Characteristics of the Collective Territory" had 168 visits in the quarter. As an added value, the space will be used to engage more users with new content provided on RedTierras. The use of social networks (Twitter and Facebook) have allowed people who are not yet part of the virtual platform Red Tierras, to be familiar with best practices and lessons learned from the project.

## **Activity 2.2. Exchanges of Experiences in Guatemala**

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No progress in this activity was made during the reporting period. However, Mercy Corps in partnership with INCODER have scheduled an exchange of experiences in Guatemala with the Land Fund in September 2014.

### **Activity 2.3. Exchange of Experiences between COCOMACIA and the Communitarian Council of Darién.**

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Mercy Corps and its partner New Masculinities Collective, agreed with the community councils and women's groups of COCOMASUR, COCOMACIA and COCOMAUNGUA upon the agenda for the Regional Exchange of Women and Men in Black Communities. The Exchange will address as main topic the gender and its relation to the Collective Territory and the role of the New Masculinity as a strategy to build gender relationships more inclusive and equitable within the community councils. This event will be held in the municipality of Quibdó from April 23 to 27, 2014.

The second exchange will take place in July 2014 in the Municipality of Unguia which will address as central theme the Ethnic Territorial Planning of collective title of black communities and the role of women in this process.

### **Activity 2.4. Complete participative sessions with Afro-Colombian women to create exchange agendas, methodologies for testing, and the documentation of lessons learned.**

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The women of the local community councils and the COCOMACIA Gender Commission, with the support of the Collective of New Masculinities prepared the Quibdó Regional Exchange Agenda. It was agreed that the central dialogues would be held around Gender and Territory issues and the role of New Masculinities in relationships between men and women. This exchange will involve delegates from 18 local community councils and directors of three major community councils for a total of 50 participants in the event.

The selection of participants to the territorial and Gender Regional Exchange will be performed taking into account that selected men and women should:

- i) Present gender narratives that are in tune with discourses of change and transformation towards equitable and harmonious relationships between men and women
- ii) Personal positions will exhibit some degree of sensitivity to the gender issues and analysis to retrieve their personal and collective histories beyond sexist views.
- iii) Be visible as bridges of communication and support for gender references from the Major Council and its possible actions within their communities.

### **Objective 3: To strengthen the role of Afro-Colombian women in terms of land access and land ordering of the Local Councils**

**Result 3. 220 Afro-Colombian women incorporate land tenancy, conflict resolution, and use of the land in the ethno-development plans, using gender equality and leadership approaches.**



### **Activity 3.1. Build capacity in terms of gender equality, as well as new masculinities and leadership in women for the ethnic-territorial planning, including the participation of men and youth.**

Mercy Corps with the support of the New Masculinities Collective, implemented a series of 16 workshops on Gender and Territory in each Local Community Councils that conform the major councils of COCOMAUNGUIA (6) and COCOMASUR (9) and a workshop with the Gender Commission of COCOMACIA (1) which bring elements of analysis in conceptual, methodological and cultural terms to develop gender issues and new masculinities within the collective territories of black communities. This process of training was attended by 380 people of which 220 (57%) were women and 160 men.

**Table No 3. Number of participants in Gender and Territory workshops – by Community Council.**

| <b>Major Council</b> | <b>Number of workshops</b> | <b>Total number of participants</b> | <b>Women</b> | <b>Men</b> |
|----------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|------------|
| COCOMAUNGUIA         | 6                          | 131                                 | 70           | 61         |
| COCOMASUR            | 9                          | 177                                 | 96           | 81         |
| COCOMACIA            | 1                          | 72                                  | 54           | 18         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>         | <b>16</b>                  | <b>380</b>                          | <b>220</b>   | <b>160</b> |

#### **Gender Learning for Community Councils:**

The participation of women within the community councils shows the adoption of knowledge and skills they have acquired through training workshops on gender issues. For the women of COCOMACIA's gender commission, they now have the conceptual and methodological tools to address gender issues with women's groups, youth, children and local councils. In turn, young women now have relevant examples of women and men which move away from the patriarchal and *machista* model.

**Photo No 2. Families in Gender and Territory workshop, Acandí, Choco**

For COCOMAUNGUIA, the participation of women helped gauge the challenges they face in order to promote new leadership and new masculinities in men, youth and children.

At the same time, women in the Gender Commission of COCOMACIA wonder about the possibility of enrolling the men in these proposals for change and equality for women. The action taken to promote greater participation by women in the Commission was to conduct three replicas of the training workshops received in the Tanando, Tagachi and San Francisco de Icho Local Councils, which will take place between May and June 2014.

#### **Learning from the Gender, Land and New Masculinities workshops:**

A first element to work on in the relationship between gender and territory in the community councils will be a meaningful assessment of the household chores, care and upbringing of children, allowing them to balance the dynamic and interactions in everyday between men and women.

The relations of men and women with the use of the land, is mediated through a legal and equal rights discourse for both men and women. While it is still necessary to hold this discourse, there are still activities and spaces in the communities where women do not have equal access or opportunity such as soccer fields or recreational areas exclusively for men. This shows that there is still a need for simple solutions such as creating spaces for women and including them in the activities of men and women.

The conclusions on land use after the training workshops show how gender roles are constructed from the dynamics of the territory by providing and perpetuating a logical land use plan which falls in favor of patriarchal ideas, providing an alternative to the notion of *neo-machismo* in the proposed land use.

Building collective identity requires a thorough understanding of cultural patterns of men and women and how they relate to the forms of territorial holdings. Families present in the Community Councils tell stories of migration, settlement, and forced displacement—all phenomena which can uproot populations and leave them without strong connections to their cultural and folkloric identities. Traditions such as song and dance add to the complexity of the Afro-descendant peoples, Indigenous and Caribbean as they can be misperceived by certain populations or negative aspects of the culture, such as *machismo*, can be adopted by the others.

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**Activity 3.2. Increase the participation and number of leadership positions of Afro-Colombian women in the greater and local communitarian councils, in terms of gender equality in land tenancy and use of the land.**

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The capacity building processes have provided guidance and motivation to women of local councils in order to increase their participation in decision-making spaces both for Major Council and in the communal work of women's groups. Mercy Corps' Design, Monitoring and Evaluation team and the boards will implement a final survey to identify the increased participation of women in decision-making scenarios within the Community Councils.

**Activity 3.3 Design the guidelines to elaborate a self-made methodology for land ordering and ethno-development with a differential approach.**

This activity is planned to be carried out through the Second Major Community Councils Regional Exchange to be held in the municipality of Unguia in the second half of 2014.

**Activity 3.4 Promote an ethnic institutional dialogue roundtable between the Councils and government actors to strengthen leadership activities of Afro-Colombian women, and to include them in initiatives for territorial development at the local level.**

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COCOMAUNGUIA carried out the definition of Collective Damage for the collective reparation process. With this process, a long-term agenda will be developed to address problems arising in the collective territory due to the internal armed conflict in order for the Black communities to build an ethnic development plan for their local councils. In the period from April to December 2014 inter-institutional meetings will be held in order to design the reparation plan.

## 2. Monitoring and Evaluation

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In the current report period, Mercy Corps facilitated and supported the National Consulting Center and MSI team in the implementation of focal groups in the three Major community councils both in Darien and in the Municipality of Quibdó, through the provision of technical inputs. These activities were foreseen under the framework of the external evaluation of the project. The work plan was executed without setbacks in this period, whereby data field was collected in its first phase. In April and May there are plans to apply a survey to women participating in the processes of formation of Gender and New Masculinities. This second phase refers to the collecting of qualitative data and project impacts.

The design, Monitoring and Evaluation team of Mercy Corps held a training session in February with the three community councils on the methodology for the design of most significant change stories in order to install capabilities for the design of technical reports and, in particular, to document the success stories of the Project.

### 3. Annex 1. Success Story

#### ORGANIZING THE COLLECTIVE LAND IN PEACE

##### **Application of lessons learned in the GPS workshops by the women of the community councils.**

The community councils have a need to identify the limits of their territory in order to clarify where they begin and where they end and to know and determine their ancestral land rights. With this information, they will also be able to recognize the rights of their neighbors. PROTIERRA strengthens the traditional processes of black communities such as the ethnic territorial participatory mapping, which defines the territory by reference to natural elements such as trees, rivers, streams, water pipes, sheds, peaks, ridges, rocks, stones and sometimes elements of the landscape created by man such as roads, streets, or wells. These traditional boundaries are based on the mental maps of the elders, community leaders, and youth. This technique plays a pedagogical and an ancestral wisdom and knowledge transfer role, which serve as support for the localization and identification of land boundaries and have as their fundamental basis the value of the word, which is recognized as valid and used in negotiations or agreements made by the communities. Through social mapping and the knowledge acquired by men and women through the workshops on GPS and Georeferencing Information Systems, the boundaries of the communities of the territorial jurisdiction of the Community Council COCOMAUNGUIA will be defined, as well as the small village's, forests or farms and community forest areas in accordance with agreed upon ancestral knowledge.

##### **Photo No 3. Women in a workshop on use of GPS.**

*A COCOMAUNGUIA Leader explains "the project resolution of territorial conflicts and natural resources, has given us technical tools and knowledge on the use of GPS and mapping to give clarity to the boundaries of our land, we do this with neighbors harmoniously in peace. Before, there were many problems to do this, violence affecting us but today with the project we have managed to work together and most importantly to be clear as to the limits of our land and where the land of our neighbors start, which are our friends now".*

Other communities use the knowledge they learned in the workshops on GPS and MARC for the delineation of forests and georeferencing streams to define conservation plans and protect the ecosystems rich in flora and fauna. Likewise in the identification of conflicts over natural resources, these exercises allowed the leaders of COCOMAUNGUIA Local Community Councils to recognize their territory and to take ownership of it in a social manner, by walking through it, navigating and contrasting the geodetic information taken by themselves through the GPS with the handmade maps that had been used previously but had many problems given its lack of precision. These georeferencing exercises will be performed by the Community surveyors who then will make adjustments to the GIS technical mapping kept in the Mediation Centers, which will allow a better management of the territory and implement measures to improve the sustainability, use and management of resources within their collective titles.